



CALPEEK

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PART II - POLITICS OF THE SIMPSON CASE VERDICT.

Editor's note: Now that a jury has acquitted sports hero O.J. Simpson of the double murder of his ex-wife Nicole and Ron Goldman, it's time for CALPEEK to again assess the political situation. Here is Part II of our analysis & commentary...

...While polls suggest that Americans (and citizens of L.A. County) are split over the verdict (60% disagree with the verdict - L.A. Times poll), the jury of public opinion is still out on the political future of L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti. Put another way: is he toast because prosecutors have blown another high profile case? The jinx on high profile trials just won't go away and this usually spells trouble for the incumbent. Bottomline: being L.A. Co. DA is a career killer...

...Consultant Harvey Englander, recently hired by Dep. DA Malcolm Jordan, told CALPEEK, "I wasn't sure I'd have a campaign last night," referring to the night prior to the verdict. He's sure now. But Jordan isn't the only individual in the L.A. Co. DA's office who may run. Sterling Norris may run and odds are good that John F. Lynch, the head deputy of the DA's Norwalk office, will run. So that's 3 solid candidates preparing to take on their boss next March 26th. NOT running is State Sen. Charles Calderon(D-Montebello). He had been mentioned as a possible candidate, but has backed off...

...If you're wondering why Garcetti might be in political hot water, here are the two most often cited reasons: 1) moving the trial from West L.A. to downtown (or as one source said, "To Johnnie Cochran's pool table."); and 2) ignoring reports that ex-L.A.P.D. detective Mark Fuhrman was a racist cop. On the other hand, Garcetti might get another chance, in light of the statement made by defense attorney Robert Shapiro, who said, "Not only did we play the race card, we dealt from the bottom of the deck." That statement may have

been very helpful to Garcetti, politically speaking...

...In addition, it was evident that while Garcetti & Co. did make mistakes, one of the key problems with the case centered on the L.A.P.D.'s scientific evidence. You can't blame Garcetti & Co. for the L.A.P.D.'s sloppy handling and collection of blood evidence. So Mayor Richard Riordan and the L.A. City Council have a major job to restore credibility to the once highly regarded L.A.P.D. But politically, the key question is whether Chief Willie Williams is the right man for this job? Many sources are beginning to have doubts...

...P.S. Does Garcetti do the following: 1) go after Fuhrman for perjury?; and 2) despite what he said, will the DA start to look for another suspect or perhaps probe jury suspicions that perhaps evidence was planted by the police? More in two weeks. Stay tuned...

SOME ADDITIONAL VACATION TIME FOR CALPEEK.

We are taking some additional vacation time this week so there won't be a newsletter the week of Oct. 16th. We're not going anywhere, but need to get ready for the distribution of CALPEEK's Directory of Campaign Consultants. It's being printed now. There will be an announcement shortly, with price info, etc. The next CALPEEK will be dated Oct. 23rd. Stay tuned...

WHITE HOUSE RUN: WILSON SCRAPS POTOMAC PLANS. CALIF. DELEGATE PRIZE UP FOR GRABS.

Editor's note: CA Gov. Pete Wilson's dream of becoming President of the United States will have to be put on hold for the time being. He bowed out of the GOP primary race on Sept. 29th. Here's our analysis...

...Wilson's decision to drop out of the GOP presidential primary race probably didn't surprise many insiders. As CALPEEK reported several weeks ago, his campaign was struggling, money had dried up and his GOP rivals

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kept saying the *fat lady* was ending her final song...

...Wilson's big problem was his home base, which was in shambles. Lousy poll numbers in Calif. seemed to follow him to New Hampshire and after some initial success, his fundraising cooled off and then dried up. And there's a link between good poll numbers and a candidate's ability to raise money -- *you can't get one without the other*. His key issues of ending affirmative action and illegal immigrant bashing should have clicked with conservatives, but this was offset by what his rivals called, "**Broken Promises**." We're talking about taxes and his pledge to serve a full term if reelected as governor. Add to that the campaign's internal problems and it was just too much...

...Legislative conservatives here in Calif., many of them supporters of U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm(R-TX), had better walk on egg shells for a while. That's the feeling of some GOP insiders who note that Wilson has a very vindictive nature. Does Pete get mad -- or get even???

...As for who picks up the marbles in Calif., since Wilson and Gramm had the only two visible operations, Gramm has the advantage for now. But Dole is starting to build a Calif. operation. Key Dole operatives in the West are Political Director Mike Hesse, based in Denver; and for the time being, Brian Lungren, based in Sacto. The two *key endorsers* will be former Gov. George Deukmejian and current AG Dan Lungren. That's a good 1-2 punch for starters. Stay tuned...

15th C.D. UPDATE: DEMOS PICK JERRY ESTRUTH.

Editor's note: Here is a brief update on the battle to replace U.S. Rep. Norm Mineta(D-San Jose), who is supposed to officially retire from office on Oct. 10th...

...Former San Jose Councilman Jerry Estruth is the guy that Demos in Santa Clara County (and in DC too) are banking on to hold the 15th C.D. in the Demo column. It won't be easy and Estruth may have to face other Demos. At least one well-known feminist, Santa Clara Co. Status of Women Commissioner Annie Dandavati, has been seriously testing the waters. Despite the fact that organized labor and the DCCC, as well as local Demos, are turning to Estruth, this may not keep Dandavati out. FYI: sources tell CALPEEK the Demo polling firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin is already aboard the Estruth campaign. Not yet signed, but

talking to Estruth is Sragow & Maravich. If Darry Sragow gets the campaign, it's likely he'll turn to either Morris & Carrick or Trippi, McMahon & Squier for TV/media...

...No word yet (but it should come the week of Oct. 9th) on a lead consultant for State Sen. Tom Campbell(R-Palo Alto), the front-running GOP candidate. Said to be on the list are Campbell's longtime consultant Ron Smith, close Smith ally Joe Shumate, Wayne Johnson and Jim Nygren. Stay tuned...

BOARD OF SUPES RACES: WHO'S IN & WHO'S OUT.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK begins a series of reports on County Boards of Supervisors elections in Calif. Supervisor candidates file nomination papers on Dec. 4th. Here's our first report...

- **Orange** - When this conservative county of 2.4 million residents declared bankruptcy earlier this year, one didn't need to be a rocket scientist to know that both supervisors who were up for reelection in '96 were *history*. Sup. Gaddi Vasquez resigned from the board on Sept. 27th. Days later, incumbent Roger Stanton announced he would not seek another term. Gov. Pete Wilson is supposed to name someone to fill Vasquez's #3rd District job very soon. There is a very long list of potential candidates who want to run in '96. The list includes Assemblyman Mickey Conroy; former Tustin Mayor Don Saltarelli; FPPC Chair Ravi Mehta; and attorney Lisa Hughes. For Stanton's #1 District seat, the list includes Westminster Mayor Chuck Smith; Fountain Valley Mayor Pro Tem George Scott; and perhaps Garden Grove Councilman Mark Leyes...

- **Contra Costa** - Of the three supes who are up, only Gayle Bishop plans to seek reelection to the board. Sources tell CALPEEK that Tom Torlakson(D) will give up his seat to run for Assemblyman Bob Campbell's 11th A.D., while Jeffrey V. Smith has been recruited by Senate Demo Leader Bill Lockyer to run for the 7th S.D. post now held by Dan Boatwright(D). Smith's opponent: popular GOP Assemblyman and former Contra Costa Co. Sheriff Dick Rainey...

- **San Bernardino** - Incumbents Jerry Eaves and Marsha Turoci will seek reelection, but Barbara Riordan is calling it quits. Lining up to run are former Sup. Dennis Hansberger; DSA officer Chris Smith;

Highlands Mayors Dennis Johnson; and local attorney Bill Lemann. Sources say Lemann is a big Rior-dan supporter and it's expected that most of Rior-dan's finance committee will jump to Lemann. Consultant Larry Levine will handle Lemann's race...

- **San Joaquin** - Initial reports indicate that all 3 incumbent board members will seek reelection. They include 1st District Sup. William Sousa; 3rd District Sup. Ed Simas; and 5th District Sup. Robert Cabral. Manteca Councilman Wayne Flores has indicated that he will challenge Simas...

- **Ventura** - Both incumbent Sup. Susan Lacey and John Flynn will seek reelection, but sources report that Maggie Kildee will not run again...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: SETBACK FOR CAOC DRIVE
Editor's note: Here's a brief update on 1996 initiative activity in Calif...

...If you're a *special interest group* faced with an initiative that can really do harm to your profession, you can do one of two things: 1) qualify a competing initiative --- the one which gets the most votes becomes law; or 2) run a strong NO campaign against the initiative that could hurt you. In the case of the Consumer Attorneys of Calif., option #1 is no longer viable --- at least not for March. CAOC has admitted that its efforts to qualify a competing initiative to kill off *contingency fee caps* won't make it on the March '96 ballot. But the effort (directed by petition consultant Kelly Kimball) will continue and sources think that it will qualify for November of '96. To have made the March '96 ballot, CAOC would have needed to collect 433,269 signatures by Nov. 13th. The deadline to qualify for the March '96 ballot is Nov. 16th. Clearly not enough time. It's not the disaster the other side is trying to *spin*, but it's not good news for CAOC...

...So for March of '96, the Alliance to Revitalize Calif., sponsors of the attorneys' contingency fee cap, plus no fault auto insurance and a third initiative on shareholder class action lawsuits, will undoubtedly face a well-funded negative TV campaign aimed against all three of its measures...

...FYI: The CA Civil Rights Initiative(CCRI) is now in circulation. The backers have until Feb. 21 to collect

693,230 valid signatures. Question: how hot an issue is affirmative action? So-so, at least that's what the latest Field Poll indicates. Out of 27 topics of concern to Californians, AA ranked 25th. 38% said they were extremely concerned about this issue. The hottest issue: controlling the spread of AIDS. 76% said they were extremely concerned. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX
Editor's note: Here's another update about who's IN and who's OUT in House & Legislative primaries in 1996...

- ☒ **71st A.D.** - Add the name of Lake Forest Mayor Richard Dixon to the GOP primary in this Orange Co. district. Others in the race are Bill Campbell, Jim Beam and Frank Ury. Dixon has hired Wooldridge Pierson as his campaign consultants...

- ☒ **39th A.D.** - Scratch the candidacies of Demos Dennis Petre, Fred Flores(a Berman AA) and San Fernando Councilman Raul Godinez from this primary. ADD the names of San Fernando Councilman Ray Ojeda and Jose Galvan...

- ☒ **22nd A.D.** - OUT of the Demo primary is former Sunnyvale Mayor Pat Castillo. Still IN are Trixie Johnson and Elaine Alquist --- who will run for this OPEN seat now held by John Vasconcellos(D-San Jose)...

- ☒ **40th A.D.** - Demo Assembly candidate Bob Hertzberg has hired Skelton Grover & Assoc. as his lead campaign consultant...

- ☒ **25th A.D.** - Add the name of Demo Ed Elliott for this seat now held by GOP Assemblyman George House of Modesto. Elliott is an optometrist who is the former president of CA Optometric Assn. Elliott has hired consultant Phil Giarrizzo...

- ☒ **35th A.D.** - Sources report that Demo Mike Ledbetter, the ex-mayor of Carpinteria, is giving consideration to challenging GOP Assemblyman Brooks Firestone(R-Santa Barbara). FYI: Demo Kevin Ready, who ran against U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly(R-Simi Valley) in '94, was looking here, but decided not to run...

LONG BEACH MAYOR TO ADDRESS L.A. PA GROUP.

Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill will address members of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers' Assn. at their Oct. 18 luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Hotel Inter-Continental, L.A. For info ☎ Debby Ishihara at MCA, Inc. (818)777-3591...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

◆ **Replacing CA's Chief Justice Lucas** - Calif. Supreme Court Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas has announced he'll retire next May. Best bet to replace the 68-year-old Lucas is Justice Ronald George, who was appointed to the State's high court by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1991. George is a tough law & order jurist and is highly regarded in legal circles. FYI: George was the judge in 1981 who *rejected* L.A. DA John Van de Kamp's plan to drop murder charges against Hillside Strangler suspect Angelo Buono. In the end, Buono was convicted, with George as the judge...

◆ **Lungren Vs. Huffington** - Sources say the *tension* between AG Dan Lungren and former Congressman Michael Huffington was so thick at the just completed CA Republican Party convention you could cut it with a knife. Although Huffington is still testing the waters, it looks like these two could square off in the GOP's 1998 gubernatorial primary. At the convention, Lungren made the keynote address at the general session and announced that 5 former CRP chairs are in support of his candidacy. They include Frank Visco, Tirso del Junco, Clair Burgener, Bob Naylor and Jim Dignan...

◆ **State Sen. Calderon Moving Up?** - Sources report that in the very near future State Sen. Charles Calderon (D-Montebello) will be named by Senate Pres. Pro Tem Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) as the new *majority leader* in the upper house. Current Majority Leader Henry Mello (D-Santa Cruz) is *termed out* in '96 -- so this isn't really a big shock, but it is a very interesting move on Lockyer's part...

◆ **Wilson Supports Allen Recall** - Gov. Pete Wilson has "expressed his strong support" for the recall of 67th A.D. Assemblywoman Doris Allen, the former GOP Assembly Speaker. Wilson called her tenure as

speaker "a disgrace and dishonor to that public office." Meanwhile, Sacto-based People's Advocate (Ted Costa's group), has reaffirmed their support FOR Allen. The recall election is set Nov. 28...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Handling news media relations for Ross Perot's Reform Party qualification effort in Calif. is consultant Tom Hall of The Maverick Group. ☎ (310)393-7775...

● LaFayette-based Winning Results, Inc., has hired Christina Uribe as their new administrative asst...

● Direct Impact of Sacto and Michael E. Dunn & Associates of Alexandria, VA, have announced their association. Both provide grassroots lobbying & political services...

● Alma Fitch Public Affairs moves to 3250 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 602, L.A. 90010. New ☎ (213)487-9800...

● The RNC's Convention Ctm. has named Patrick Garahan as CAO for the '96 San Diego convention. Named Asst. Mgr. for Logistics & Operations is James "Chip" DiPaula Jr....

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Fundraising assistant position** available on high profile Democratic congressional campaign. Will coordinate candidate's fundraising calls, follow-up activities and set up and staff fundraising events. Individual must be very organized and detail oriented. FAX resume to Felix at (714)836-7645...

● **Alliance to Revitalize California**, which is sponsoring 3 legal reform initiatives on the March '96 ballot, is seeking a communications director/press secretary. FAX resume to Bill Zimmerman at (310)451-7494 or mail to 1250 6th St., Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90401...

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